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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY
Directorate of Intelligence
26 March 1971

INTELLIGENCE MEMORANDUM

Pakistan Situation Report
(AS of 0730 AM EST)

1. Clashes between the army and Bengalis apparently continue but the imposition of tight censorship in East Pakistan makes an accurate reading of the situation difficult. News reports from India speak of "heavy casualties" and claim that the Pakistani Army is meeting with "stiff resistance" from the provincial police and the paramilitary East Pak Rifles as well as from the people.

2. It is not yet clear whether this latest confrontation was initiated by the Bengalis or by the Army. The sudden departure of President Yahya for Karachi and the rapid promulgation of fifteen new and stringent martial law orders would indicate, however, that the Martial Law Administration had concluded that further negotiations with Mujib were useless and that force would be necessary to restore control over the Province.

3. There have been no reports received of injuries to Americans or any other foreigners in East Pakistan. Earlier this month the Consul General in Dacca estimated the number of potential American evacuees from the Province at between 900 and 970.

State Dept. review
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4. Attention continues to be focused on Yahya's upcoming broadcast to the nation, scheduled for 9 AM EST.

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